

Report of the Common Council Sidewalk Committee September 22, 2004

Committee Members and Staff

The members the 2004 Council Sidewalk Committee (Committee) were appointed by Mike Diekhoff, President of the Council, and included:

- Mike Diekhoff, District 3
- Tim Mayer, At-Large
- David Rollo, District 4
- Chris Sturbaum, District 1 (Chair)

The committee members were assisted by the following persons:

Council Office

Dan Sherman, Council Administrator/Attorney

Rachel Atz, Council Assistant

Clerk's Office

Regina Moore, City Clerk

Public Works

Julio Alonso, Director

Justin Wykoff, Manager of Engineering Services

Planning

Frank Nierzwicki, Long Range Transportation Manager

Tiffany Strait, Senior Transportation Planner

HAND

Bob Woolford, Housing Coordinator

Parks and Recreation

Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager

Schedule and Topics of Meetings

The Committee met on the following dates to discuss the following topics and take the following actions:

May 26, 2004 at noon in the McCloskey Room to:

- Elect a Chairperson (Chris Sturbaum);
- Discuss funding;

- Review past and on-going Council Sidewalk projects;
- Review other recent, on-going, and future sidewalk projects;
- Affirm criteria (linkages); and
- Establish procedures for drawing up list of potential projects.

June 9, 2004 at noon in the McCloskey Room to:

- Review projects proposed by citizens, council members, and staff; and
- Forward a list of projects to the next meeting and request that the Engineering Department prepare estimates for those projects without them.

July 14, 2004 at noon in the McCloskey Room to:

- Review projects and estimates

July 21, 2004 at noon in the McCloskey Room to:

- Continue to review projects and estimates.

August 4, 2004 at noon in the Hooker Room to:

- Make recommendations for 2004 projects; and
- Agree to meet soon after the Report is approved by the Council in order to commence review of projects for 2005.

Highlights of Committee Deliberations

Review of On-Going Committee Projects

Sidewalk along Southdowns Drive, Mitchell Street, and Ruby Lane from Jordan Avenue to Nancy Street (south side) - \$109,731 allocated in 2002 toward an estimated \$148,731 project

In 2002, the Committee considered a petition from neighbors requesting a sidewalk along an unpaved portion of the Green Way's route that runs from Jordan Avenue & Southdowns Drive to High Street & Covenanter Drive. The Council allocated funds that year for the segment running from Jordan Avenue to Nancy Street with the understanding that additional funds from the Green Ways program and the storm water utility would also be used for this project. The portion from Southdowns Drive & Mitchell Street to Ruby Lane and Nancy Street was completed this summer and the Street Department resurfaced the street soon after it was done. The segments along

Southdowns Drive, Nancy Street, and Marilyn Drive have yet to be completed.

Sidewalk along South Walnut Street from Country Club Drive (Bank One) to Pinewood Drive (west side) - \$63,427 allocated in 2003 toward an estimated \$104,354 project

In 2003, the Committee received estimates for a sidewalk on South Walnut from Country Club / Winslow Road to Rhorer Road and agreed to fund the northern most segment of the project, which would allow residents on Hoosier Street to walk up to the businesses at the above intersection without going along the street. By using sidewalk crews from the Street Department, the City was able to construct the sidewalk all the way to Pinewood Drive.

Sidewalk on East 10th Street from Grandview Drive to Belle Trace (south side) - \$43,976

In 2003 the Council approved funds for constructing a sidewalk along East 10th Street from Grandview Drive to Belle Trace. Last year, the City completed the design, began acquiring the necessary right-of-way, and sought a permit from the state to work within the 10th Street right-of-way. Approximately \$45,000 will be needed to complete the project and the Committee recommended that unencumbered funds from previous years be used for this and other projects.

Sidewalk and Storm water project along East 5th Street from east of Overhill to Union Street (south side) - \$52,597 allocated in 2003 (which was contingent upon storm water funding)

This is one of two sidewalk and storm water projects for Green Acres that received funds for integrated design work in 2002. In 2003 the Council allocated \$52,597 to complete the first, eastern-most leg of the East 5th Street project, but the project did not go forward because money for the storm water improvements were not available. Further progress on most parts of this project and the companion, Jefferson Street, project await funding from the storm water utility.

Funding for 2004

The Public Works Department reported that there would be approximately \$151,000 of Alternative Transportation Fund monies available for sidewalks in 2004 after some monies had been set aside for traffic calming initiatives. These funds represent surplus monies generated from the Residential Neighborhood Parking Program. In addition to those monies, the Committee recommended that unspent and unencumbered funds from prior years be made available for these projects as well. *Please note that staff determined after the Committee acted that some of these unspent funds had been budgeted for 2005 and, therefore, would need to be spent next year.*

Other City Sidewalk Projects

The staff from the Planning, HAND and Parks and Recreation departments submitted written reports which briefly mentioned recent, on-going and future pedestrian projects. A summary of these reports can be found in the Appendix to this report. Please note that it does not include a report from the Public Works and Engineering departments.

Criteria for Making Recommendations

The Committee reviewed and decided not to change its criteria for making recommendations. This means that the Committee allocated funds to complete missing links based upon a number of factors including public safety, usage, and cost. Since 2002, the Committee has also used an annually updated sidewalk inventory provided by the Planning Department. It also has consulted with Planning staff regarding priorities generated from locally created software program (e.g. pedshed map).

Soliciting Proposals

The Committee agreed to consider proposals from:

- Committee members,
- Other council members (who were solicited by e-mail for their suggestions), and,
- The public (as previously received by the Council Office, committee members, and other city entities).

Recommendations as a Result of Discussion at July 14th, July 21st, and August 4th meetings

The Committee Requests that the Council Approve the Report which Recommends that the Council (Please see the Appendix for an elaboration on these recommendations and the Committee deliberations):

1. Use Unspent and Unencumbered Alternative Transportation Funds from Previous Years to Help Pay for These Projects

2. Allocate Alternative Transportation Funds for the Following Sidewalk Projects

- **Sidewalk along East 10th Street from Grandview to Belle Trace - \$45,000**
- **Sidewalk on Nancy Street from Ruby Lane to Marilyn Drive (west side) - \$45,000**
- **Sidewalk on Jefferson Street from 7th to 8th Street (east side) - \$64,700**
- **Renwick Related Projects**
 - **Winfield Road from Fair Oaks Lane to Existing Sidewalk South of Rechter Road (east side) - \$27,000 for labor with cost of materials (approximately \$18,096) being contributed by the developer of the Renwick PUD (Wininger/Stolberg)**
 - **Queens Way from Montclair Avenue to Chelsey Court (south side) - \$22,139**

Note:

The Committee intends to meet soon after the Council has acted on the Report to continue where it left off in order to recommend projects for 2005. *Council members should, therefore, submit their proposals for sidewalk projects to the Council Office within the next week.* This schedule would help the Engineering Staff by allowing them to begin work on the design of these projects during the winter months.

